

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

The examiner appears to have misunderstood the specification. The specification states that for the same voltages applied to the terminals of the NMOS pass transistor and the PMOS drive transistor the current flowing through the NMOS transistor must be greater than the current flowing through the PMOS transistor. This is described in the specification as "a condition" of the circuit. The specification does not state this occurs during the operation of the circuit. Voltages can be applied between any points in the circuit at any value. The paragraph simply refers to the magnitudes of the currents that result if certain voltages are applied to the circuit. The operation of the circuit is clearly described starting on page 6, line 11, which states "[I]n operation".

The limitation in claim 2 is described in the specification starting on page 8, line 24, which states, "[B]y limiting the voltage level of the wordline to less than ninety percent of the circuit supply voltage". The claim limitation is clearly described in the specification.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Portacci.

In the Portacci patent (6,172,901) lines 23-30 described by the examiner refer to Figure 9 and not Figure 1. Therefore the description is not relevant to Figure 1. Furthermore and more importantly the text reads, "When using PMOS transistors for the pass transistors 226, 236, the designer must be aware that the reading current will be less than if NMOS transistors are used, such as in the memory cell 110." Clearly this is comparing PMOS and NMOS pass transistors. The circuit of the instant invention

describes PMOS drive transistors and NMOS pass transistors. It is clear therefore that the Portacci patent is not a valid 102(a) reference.

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

While it is believed that the instant response places the application in condition for allowance, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned in order to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an Extension of Time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Texas Instruments Incorporated, Account No. 20-0668.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter K. McLarty', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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